

## ExComm Meeting Minutes, April 6, 2013

### Attendance

ExComm Members present: Ronan Heffernan, Art Schwartz, Kathy Crum, Thomas Thomas, Melissa Stephens, Dan Chesnut, Audrey Silver, Barbara Loewe (hostess)

ExComm members absent: Forrest Ford

Others present: Sylvia Zadorozny (scribe)

Late: Kathy Crum

Meeting called to order at 1:24 PM.

Previous minutes approved.

### Reports

**Scribe**—Emailed report: On February 18, I emailed to the ExComm the minutes of the February 16 meeting, and I emailed those minutes again a few days before this April meeting. I don't recall receiving any suggestions for changes to the minutes.

**Testing**—Emailed report: Prospect list has grown from 763 to 778. One added in April, 13 added in March, 2 added in February. One came off the list because he tested with Jay and joined in February.

Added at meeting: Other than Jay's February test, there have been no tests since the last ExComm. I will be going to the downtown library this afternoon to try to schedule a test for later this month. There will also be a test session on May 25 at the RG.

**Scholarship**—Emailed report: No update from National on awards for our chapter's submissions. We do have a local winner (distinct from the National awards), but I don't want to announce the name for the minutes until we've notified them; we can discuss how to go about that.

The Local winner was based on cumulative points from the judges. While given 3rd place by one judge, 5th place by another judge, and tied for 6th by the third judge, the eventual winner still scored highest overall.

Despite the "objective" criteria provided for the program, one judge's first place was tied for 5th by one judge and tied for 28th by another; the second judge's first pick was 4th by one judge and 15th by the other, and the third judge's first pick was tied for 10th by one judge and tied for 28th by the other. Clearly not an ideal system; might be alleviated by having more judges next year. The Scholarship chair next year may want to form a committee somewhat earlier to discuss procedures.

Added at meeting: We completed reading, but haven't heard back from National about any goings on. Whoever is Scholarship Coordinator next year might want to be more decisive. We had very different ideas on scholarship judging from the 3 judges.

**Gifted Youth**—We attempted the meeting for the Renaissance Fair and TV studio but did not have much turn out. Next week is a trip to MOSI for sea monsters then something else a week later.

We will have kids at the picnic. Art will bring croquet and bocce ball sets.

**Publicity**—Audrey needs feedback about RG to do next press release. Thomas will send ad to other groups in Florida. Testing at RG on Saturday. See website.

**Program Officer**—Scrabble went well. We will do it next month, then will try to continue it elsewhere.

**Calendar Editor**—Emailed report: Besides our regular calendar events, March featured a Wine Tasting and also Games Weekend at Lake Louisa State Park; both events were great fun. ☺

The first Scrabble Night is Friday 4/5/13, and the Spring Picnic is 4/7/13 at RE Olds Park (Oldsmar)—picnic preparations are underway. (See Spring Picnic Report.)

I've contacted event hosts whose regular events would conflict with our RG next month, and they've indicated to skip their events in May. I then succeeded in getting the computer to skip May—in a roundabout way, but it worked! (This small success has given your calendar editor some hope that she may someday approach the rest of the world in computer techno-savvyness.)

Added at meeting: Steve has self-defense and gun safety presentations, but will do avoiding victimization for RG.

**Editor**—April is a large issue because it includes the proposed bylaws changes, so it cost more. Bylaws changes hope to allow electronic voting.

**Webmaster**—I've been delinquent in posting minutes, will try to catch up over weekend. Still haven't posted bios. Anyone else sending in their bio? Emailed report. (I couldn't find one—Scribe.) Discussion of ad links on web. We paid average 65 cents per click. How to download Sounding issues onto iPhone? It won't scroll down to where you need to click; no slide bar. 76-77 people in the last 2 months clicked on our ads.

**Treasurer**—See emailed report. (NB: Because of completely different formatting, I am unable to include the Treasurer's emailed attachment in the minutes—Scribe.)

Added at meeting: Did anyone talk to Lori Puterbaugh about her ad? It's expired. We have 30 RG registrations as of today. Lighter than I'd like to see. Hoping for a slug at the end of April. Proctor revenue is down, but we have twice gotten the \$25 stipend. Ann Flynn has renewed her subscription. Miscellaneous expenses, Art is getting reimbursed for delivering *Sounding*. Office supplies category is wafer seals. Socials: we haven't spent as much as we had budgeted. Publicity budget covers Google ad words and any other printing. We're ahead \$765 for the year. Cash flow shows same info. Itemized categories explains it all.

**Membership**—Emailed report: We ended the membership year (3/31/2013) with 742 members, down from the 2012 peak of 765, the 2011 peak of 761 and the 2010 peak of 759 (we squeaked by 2009).

As usual, there was a drop-off of lapsed members effective 4/1. On a positive note, though we lost 23 members year-to-year at the peak, we are only down 2 since last year after lapses. Our current membership is 601; last year on 4/5 we had 603.

Current breakdown:

1-year memberships: 396

2-year memberships: 48

3-year memberships: 39

4-year memberships: 14

5-year memberships: 9

Life Members: 95

This is more or less in line with last year's numbers on the same date.

Added at meeting: Pretty much in line with last year. Dan graphed membership; it was flat. We have 95 life members. National released numbers that American Mensa is also flat on membership.

**Circulation**—Emailed report: Need to submit paperwork for second entry point. Howard Prince at National sent number for new mailer ID for new post office account. Kathy didn't know anything about it.

**Deputy LocSec**—All is well.

**LocSec**—Everything is ticking along. Picnic tomorrow.

**Election supervisor**—Emailed report: The Call for Candidates has been published in Sounding. To date I have received no petitions. There is no action to be taken regarding the new bylaws yet.

**Spring Picnic**—Emailed report: Postcards were created and mailed out. I took a photo of the pier in the park, and was able to include 3 ibises who walked into the picture. The back of the postcard features an RG ad. A few postcards got mailed without addresses and came back to my return address. I have extra unmailed postcards (it was cheaper to print more), so if anyone wants a souvenir postcard in mint condition, let me know. If I don't hear from anyone soon, the extras will be recycled.

As of 4/3/13, I have 40 positive RSVPs for the picnic. A few of those will likely be no-shows, but other people who have not RSVPed will undoubtedly show up.

Ronan kindly offered to take me shopping at Sam's Club for picnic supplies—we'll go after this ExComm meeting. When I checked the weather forecast on Wednesday, it looked as though Sunday should be a lovely day for a picnic. \*

Added at meeting: We're now over 60 RSVPs. We discussed chocolate.

**Summer Social**—Approached University, but looking elsewhere. Any suggestions? Thomas suggested post on Facebook. Discussion regarding budget and venues and how much we could spend on location. Barbara suggested restaurants with private rooms. Dan knows speaker about birds from Audubon Society.

**RG Honcho**—Jack Brawner will be doing Treasure Hunt for RG. Working on getting speakers. Need help. Hospitality, speaker shepherd. Melissa and maybe Audrey will help with Hospitality, but aren't staying at hotel.

**Games Weekend**—We had fun. Next year, closer? State parks here are more primitive. Cabins there sell out months in advance. Games with comet in November? Advertise to Orlando? Book 3 cabins? It would be nice if we could figure it out before the RG, so we could advertise it at the RG. What's the cancellation policy? Discussion online whether to explore it formally. Would we be willing to lease 2-3 cabins?

*Motion* (Barbara/Dan): If there is a reasonable refund policy, move that Art go ahead and reserve 3 cabins. Passed with one abstention.  
November 8-10, Veteran's Day weekend, comet.

Recessed at 2:50 PM.

Reconvened at 3:05 PM.

## Old Business

**LDW**—During comet watch. Previous ones were paid by National. Don't know if we have a budget. We need to ask Mel. No one else has approached him. Budget will influence where it is, advertising. Has money been allocated?

**Website bios**—We have 5 so far. Since Feb meeting we had 318 visitors to our website. Bios are under Word Salad on the Join link, under Member link. Facebook group should be added to website link.

**ExComm retreat**—Now that we have a room and date, we need to confirm that current ExComm can attend on June 22-23. Location is here, upstairs. All day both days, but go home at night. Lunch and breakfasty items. 9:30 start time. Open to ExComm and new ExComm. Is it open to anyone interested in running chapter? Discussion. Chairs, officers? Current ExComm, new ExComm, and others interested? *Don't put on calendar!* Put in LocSec column instead, so new members won't come as their first meeting. Thomas read from National's description of who should be invited. Melissa will put on Facebook. Art will put it on tbm-discussion. Apparently putting it on the calendar merited an extended discussion. Reminder on tbm-ex.

**Culture Quest**—Zero interest. Deadline has passed.

## **New Business**

**Fall Picnic**—Appoint director? Ronan will do fall picnic.

**Winter Social**—Art will be director.

Anyone want to host May the Forth be with you?

**Lapsed member contact.** Haven't seen anything from National yet. Do we want to phone, email, letter? Phone calls—Melissa, Ronan, Dan.

**Policy on national Mensa political statements.** Do we want to establish a policy on this? Ronan read from bylaws. Ballots have 150 word limit. They've sent longer stuff to newsletters. Right now we don't carry it. Should we allow to post in Facebook group, print in newsletter? Discussion.

Motion (Barbara/Art): We do not publish in *Sounding*, regardless of what we do on Facebook. Amended to "We do not publish in *Sounding*." (Leave out Facebook.)

Discussion: RVC wrote his column endorsing candidate. We printed it. Will you consider withdrawing motion? No.

Three in favor, 4 opposed. Motion did not pass.

Thomas, remove Rob from Facebook? If there's a fiasco about his statement, do we tear it down? Keep it as it was.

**Other new business.** Forrest has de facto resigned, having missed three meetings. Next meeting we need to appoint a replacement. If you think of anyone, contact them.

**Next Meeting:** June 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM at Barbara's.

**Next year's RG:** Art, Sylvia co-honcho. Barbara too for hotel contract. Melissa will help out.

Motion (Melissa/Dan): Art, Sylvia, and Barbara are the triumvirate for 2014 TBM RG. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:18 PM.